

■ Guide To Career Choices

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Independent practitioners & other occupations in

HEALTH SERVICES

a brief look at:

- jobs

- education and training requirements

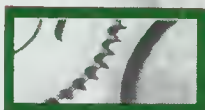
- wages

- outlook

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**INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONERS
& OTHER OCCUPATIONS IN HEALTH
SERVICES**

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ENTRY : The mean (average) of the bottom third of wages in an occupation.
 MEDIAN: Half of the workers in the occupation earn more than this wage; half earn less.
 EXPERIENCED : The mean of the top two-thirds of wages in an occupation.

HS > High School diploma or equivalent
 AD > Associate Degree of Arts/Science
 community college, 2 years
 BA/BS > Bachelor of Arts/Science degree
 colleges/universities, 4 years



Career Opportunities	OUTLOOK			HOURLY WAGES			EDUCATION AND TRAINING
	2008 EMPLOYMENT	LONG-TERM OUTLOOK	SHORT-TERM FORECAST	ENTRY	MEDIAN	EXPERIENCED	
Chiropractors	1,797	VF	VF	\$21.14	\$46.61	\$50.54	Two years of pre-chiropractic study, graduating from a chiropractic college and passing a licensure exam.
Dental Assistants	15,180	VF	VF	\$7.28	\$9.73	\$11.39	Many employers prefer graduates from training programs, however, many are trained on the job.
Dental Hygienists	6,479	VF	VF	\$13.78	\$21.86	\$26.50	AD in dental hygiene; a BS or master's degree is required for teaching or research.
Dentists	8,092	UF	VUF	\$20.33	\$37.56	\$44.77	BS and four years in dental school, two-to-four years post-graduate training if specializing.
Dieticians & Nutritionists	2,804	F	F	\$9.17	\$15.26	\$18.48	BS in dietetics, foods and nutrition or food service systems management.
Emergency Medical Technicians	7,882	VF	F	\$6.25	\$9.46	\$14.72	HS and the completion of approved training program in order to be licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health.
Opticians	4,372	UF	VUF	\$7.62	\$10.05	\$12.65	HS. Training may be informal, on the job or through formal apprenticeship.
Optometrists	2,513	UF	UF	\$8.43	\$22.29	\$32.15	Must have a Doctor of Optometry degree from an accredited optometry school, and pass both a written and clinical state board examination.
Pharmacists	8,505	VUF	VF	\$21.43	\$31.85	\$32.36	BS in Pharmacy (a five-year program), an advanced degree is needed for research, administrative or teaching positions.
Pharmacy Technicians	6,673	UF	VUF	\$7.05	\$8.22	\$9.71	One to twelve months of on-the-job training. HS courses in science and math are assets.
Speech Pathologists & Audiologists	7,364	VF	VF	\$13.61	\$19.80	\$24.89	A master's degree in speech-language pathology or audiology is the standard.
Veterinarians & Veterinary Inspectors	2,553	F	F	\$13.85	\$23.70	\$32.10	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) and licensing (by passing the state board exam).
Veterinary Assistants	2,045	F	F	\$6.47	\$8.25	\$10.11	AD from a community college or trade school; there is also extensive on-the-job training.
Physicians & Surgeons	35,854	VF	VF	\$31.44	\$60.28	\$59.18	BS and four years of medical school and graduate medical education or residency. Depending on the specialty chosen, residency will last from three to eight years.

* Occupational growth rates and job opening data are based on All-Industry projections through the year 2008.

* Long-Term and Short-Term Forecast outlook descriptors are derived from projected employment growth and the level of employment for the occupation as a percentage of total employment.

* Wage data cover full-time, part-time and seasonal employees but exclude temporary and contractual workers. Wages include piece rates, commissions and cost-of-living allowances but exclude overtime and tips.

***data are not available

F Favorable
 VF Very Favorable
 UF Unfavorable
 VUF Very Unfavorable

■ WHAT ARE SOME OF THE JOBS?

CHIROPRACTORS...adjust spinal column and other articulations of the body to prevent disease and correct abnormalities of the human body believed to be caused by interference with the nervous system. They examine patients to determine the nature and extent of the disorder, which may include manipulating the spine or other involved areas. Some supplementary measures that may be utilized are exercise, rest, water, light, heat and nutritional therapy.

DENTISTS...diagnose and treat diseases, injuries and malformations of teeth, gums and related oral structures. They are supported by dental hygienists, who clean teeth and provide other preventive dental care, and dental assistants, who perform a wide range of patient care, laboratory and office duties.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS...or EMT's...give immediate care to patients who need urgent medical attention and then transport the sick or injured to medical facilities.

OPTICIANS...or dispensing opticians...fit eyeglasses and contact lenses, following prescriptions from ophthalmologists or optometrists.

PHARMACISTS...dispense drugs prescribed by physicians and other health practitioners and provide information to patients about medications and their use. They are assisted by pharmacy technicians, who fill orders for unit doses and prepackaged medications, and pharmacy assistants, who mix pharmaceutical preparations, issue medicine, and label and store supplies.

SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS...assess and treat speech, language, voice and fluency disorders, such as stuttering. Audiologists assess and treat persons with hearing and related disorders.

VETERINARIANS...diagnose and treat diseases and dysfunctions of animals. They dress wounds, set broken bones, perform surgery, prescribe and administer medicines and vaccinate animals against disease. They are supported by veterinary assistants who are the primary caretakers of animals under their charge—particularly following surgery.



■ WHAT IS THE JOB OUTLOOK?

A growing and aging population is the driving force which will create many job vacancies for the diverse health service occupations listed in this guide. As the number of middle-aged and older persons continues to rise rapidly over the coming decade, needs for a wide range of medical services—and the workers who provide them—will grow substantially. The demand for dental care, vision care, pharmaceuticals, nutritional counseling, chiropractic services, emergency medical services, and treatment for speech and hearing impairments should all continue to expand. And finally, the outlook for veterinarians and their support staff who are responsible for the health and well being of our growing animal population should be favorable in both urban and rural settings in Illinois.

■ WHERE CAN I FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

The Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2000-01 Edition, contains many additional sources of information for over 250 occupations in all sectors of the economy. You may order the Handbook by contacting the U.S. Government Bookstore, 401 South State Street, Suite 124, Chicago, Illinois 60605-1297, 312/353-5133 or check out the online version at <http://stats.bls.gov/ocohome.htm>.

For access to other labor market and workforce information on the internet, visit the following sites:

IDES' home page: <http://www.ides.state.il.us>,

LMI Source: <http://lmi.ides.state.il.us>,

Workforce Info Center: <http://www.ILWorkInfo.com> and a site targeted towards high school students:

<http://www.workforceinfo.state.il.us>.



Career Guide Sources:

Illinois Department of Employment Security's "Occupational Projections" and "Occupational Employment Statistics Wage Data" and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' "Occupational Outlook Handbook"

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